



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Rock Island District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date: February 26, 2001

Expires: March 27, 2001

CEMVR-OD-P-402980

Section: 404

Joint Public Notice
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Department of Natural Resources/Office of Water Resources

1. **Applicant.** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clock Tower Building, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004.
2. **Project Location.** Section 8, Township 18 North, Range 1 East; Rock Island County, Illinois approximate Mississippi River mile 491.9 (left descending bank below Iliniwek State Park and adjacent to Hampton, Illinois).

3. **Project Description.**

a. **Purpose.** The purpose of the project is to construct a mooring cell on the Mississippi River downstream of Locks and Dam 14 for tows to tie off on while awaiting passage through Lock 14. A large percentage of barge traffic currently waits in this area. Under present conditions, towboats must move in close to shore and ground their barges or maintain engine power within the area to hold position. With a mooring cell at the proposed location, towboats could tie off on the structure and minimize sediment resuspension by allowing their engines to run at idling speed. The mooring cell also would limit erosion and habitat destruction caused from towboats grounding themselves on the shoreline.

b. **Proposed Project.** The Corps of Engineers proposes to construct a mooring cell within an area that tows currently use to wait for upbound passage through Mississippi River Lock 14. The mooring cell will be approximately 9.4 meters (31 feet) in diameter and will be constructed of steel sheetpiling with concrete fill and foundation. The base of the mooring cell will be placed in approximately 4.3 meters (14 feet) of water and cover an area of approximately 90 square meters (963 square feet) or 0.01 hectare (0.02 acres).

c. **Coordination.** The project has been coordinated the following State and Federal agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Coast Guard, and Rock Island County Park Service.

4. **Agency Review and Where to Reply.**

a. **Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers.** The project plans are being processed under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

b. **State of Illinois.**

(1) The project plans have been submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Illinois should be addressed to: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Water Pollution Control, Permit Section, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, Post Office Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276 with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers (see paragraph 4.a. of this public notice for address).

(2) The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR), application is being processed pursuant to an Act in Relation to the Regulation of the Rivers, Lakes and Streams of the State of Illinois, Chapter 615, ILCS 5 (Illinois Compiled Statutes (1994)). Comments concerning the IDNR/OWR permit should be addressed to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, 524 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1787, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers (see paragraph 4.a. of this public notice for address). Mr. Mike Diedrichsen, IDNR/OWR (217/782-4426), may be contacted for additional information.

5. Historical/Archaeological. The area of potential effect (APE) is limited to the underwater location of the proposed work. The APE has no historic properties listed on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The APE is more than a mile downstream from the boundary of the Lock and Dam No. 14 Historic District. No underwater historic properties have been identified for the APE (Custer and Custer 1997). In addition, Benn and Anderson (1997) found no historic properties in the APE in their review entitled "Historic Properties Potential and Geomorphological Assessment at Locks and Dams 11-22, 24, and 25, Upper Mississippi River System, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin." Based on this information, the Corps of Engineers has determined that this is project will have no effect on historic properties list on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places. If this project uncovers an item or items which might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important data come to light in the project area, the Corps will ensure that reasonable efforts to avoid or minimize harm to the property are made until the significance of the discovery can be determined as required in 36 CFR 800.13.

6. Endangered Species. Three federally recognized species that are listed as endangered may be found in either Scott County, Iowa, or Rock Island County, Illinois: Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and Higgins' eye pearly mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*).

a. The bald eagle feeds in open tailwater areas of Mississippi River dams in the winter. The mooring cell would be a little more than a mile downstream of the dam and should not disrupt eagle feeding habits. No impacts to these species are anticipated to result from this project.

b. Suitable habitat for the Indiana bat (loose bark of larger trees) is not present in the project area. No impacts to these species are anticipated to result from this project.

c. The Federally endangered Higgins' eye pearly mussel is known to be present in Pool 15. There were no Higgins' eye pearly mussel specimens found at the proposed site. Because of the small size of the construction site and its location outside of areas of dense mussel concentrations, no significant adverse impacts to aquatic resources are anticipated.

7. Dredge/Fill Material Guidelines. The evaluation of the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

8. Environmental Documentation. The District staff has prepared a document entitled "Environmental Assessment, Mooring Cell Construction, Pool 15, Mississippi River Mile 491.9, Scott County, Iowa, Rock Island County, Illinois, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District" for the project. This documentation is available for review at the Clock Tower Building (see address in paragraph 1.) during working hours (7:30 am to 4:00 pm).

9. Public Interest Review. The decision whether to proceed with the project will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

10. **Who Should Reply.** The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.

11. **Public Hearing Requests.** Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.

12. **Reply to the Corps of Engineers.** Comments concerning the project should be addressed to the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-P (Wayne Hannel), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. Mr. Wayne Hannel (309/794-5378) may be contacted for additional information concerning regulatory issues. Mr. Randy Kraciun (309/794-5174) may be contacted for additional information concerning environmental issues.

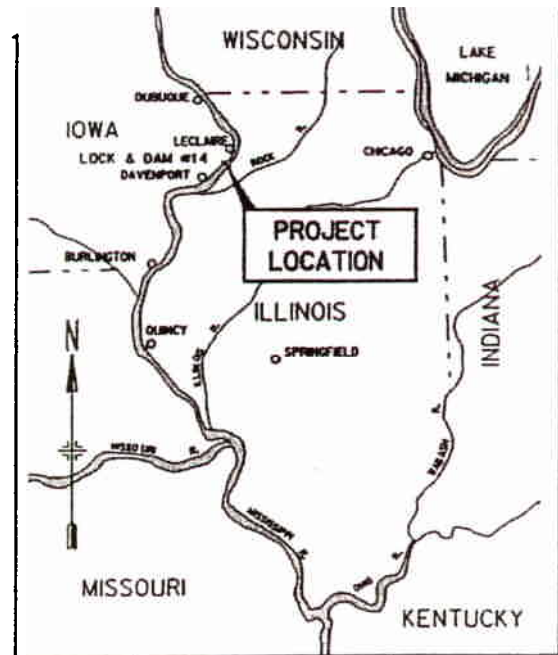
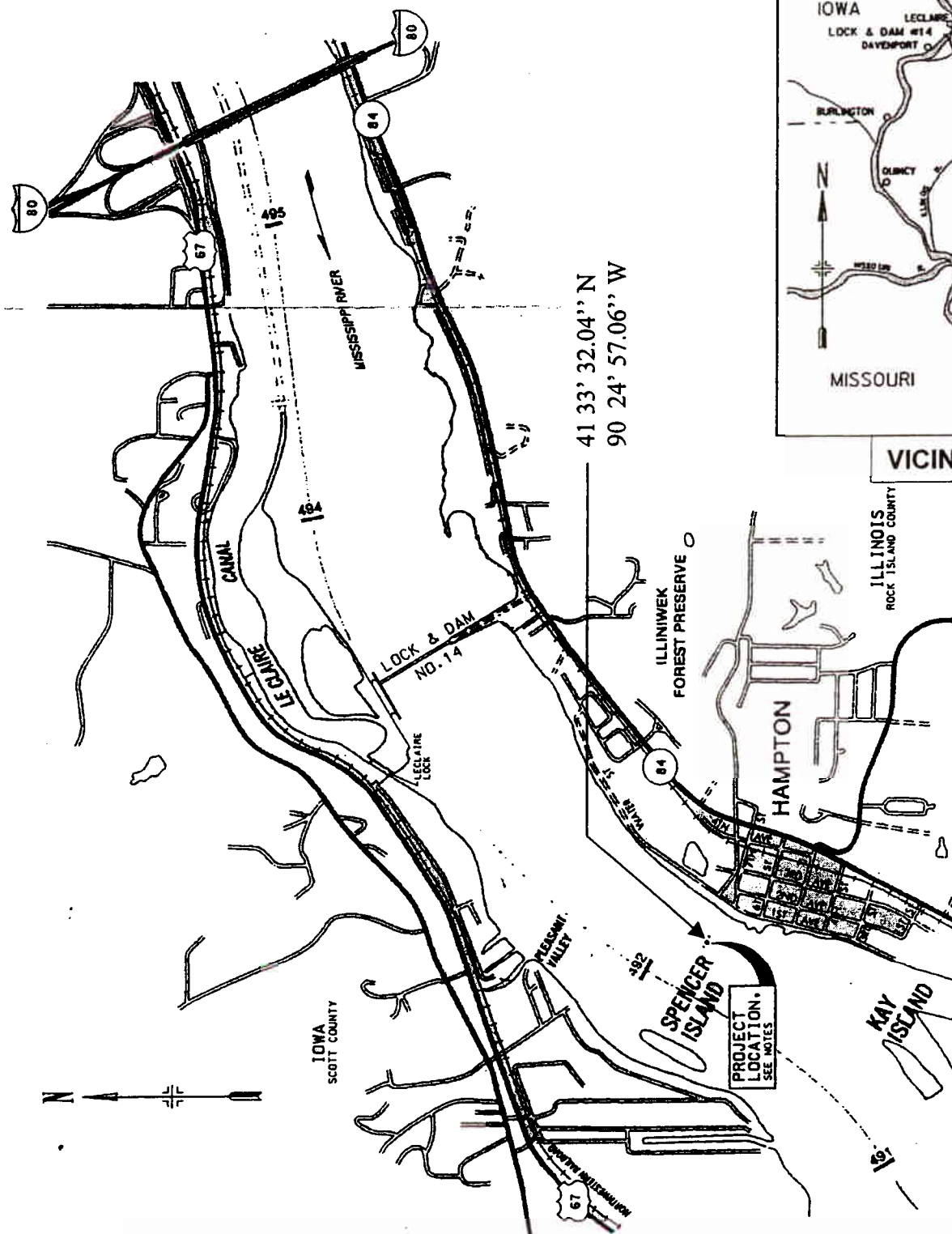
Attach
Plan



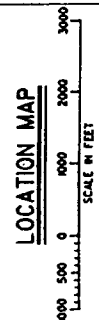
William J. Bayles
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer

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VICINITY MAP

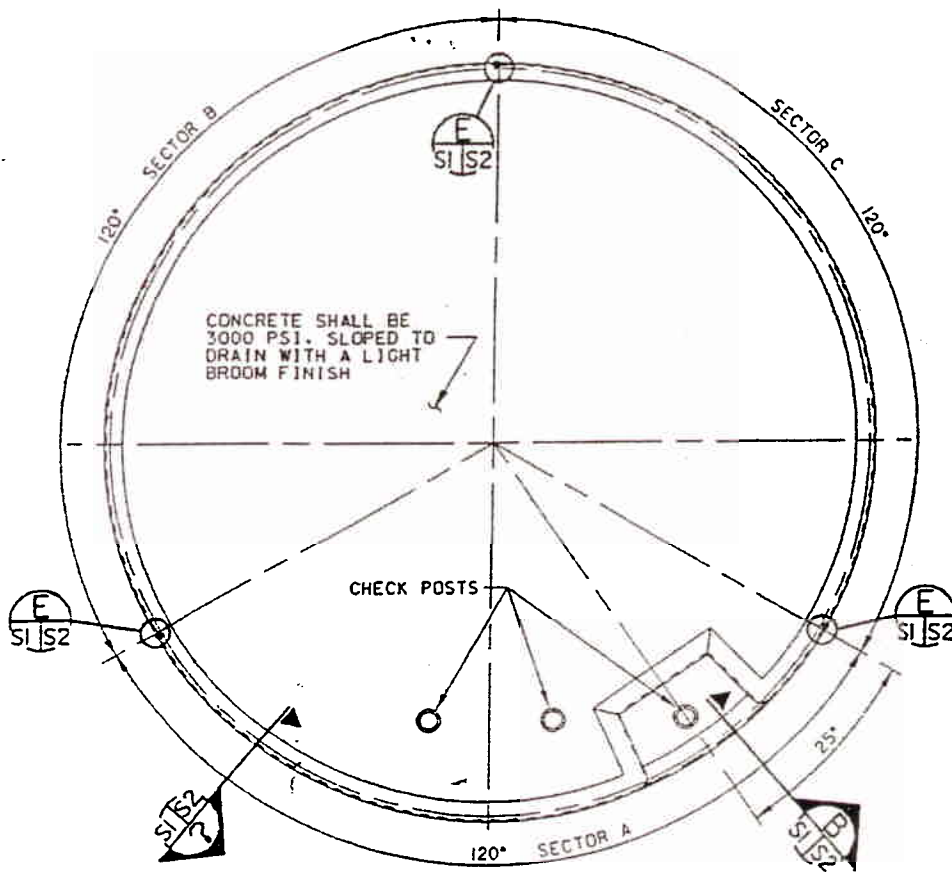


LIST OF ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS

NO.	NAME	ADDRESS
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

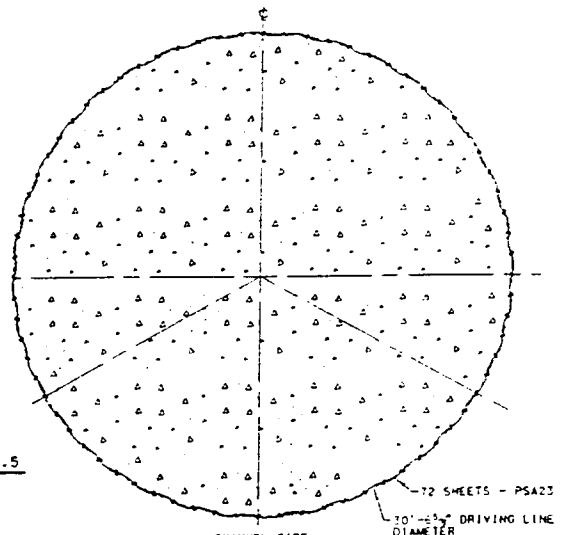
L/D 14 Downstream Mooring Cell



CHANNEL SIDE

PLAN

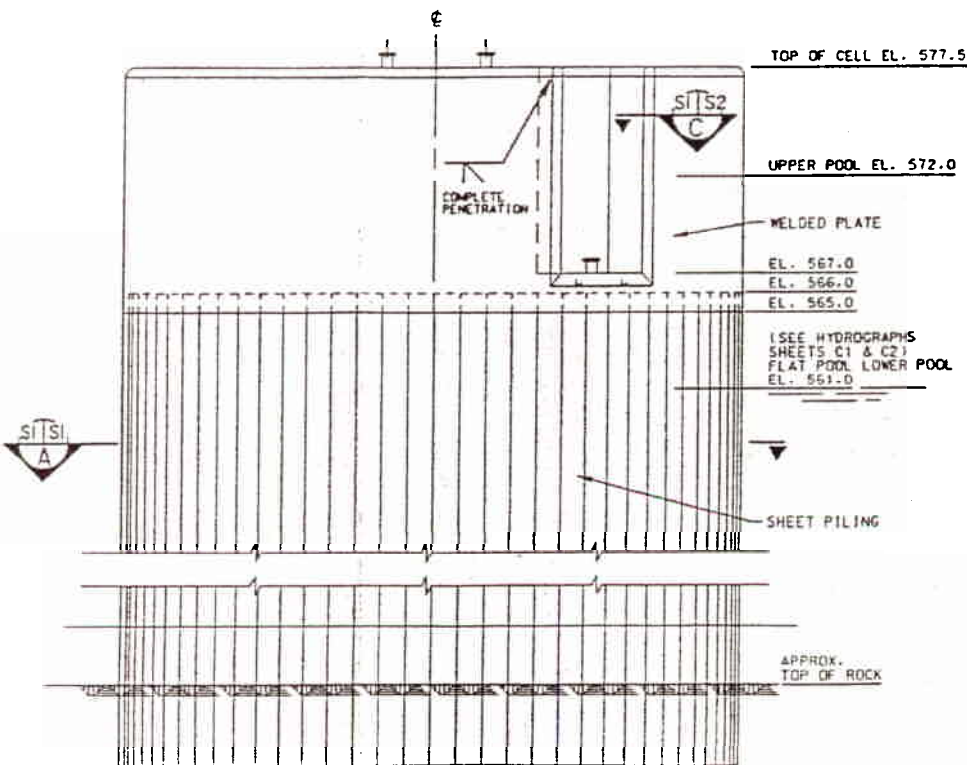
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CHANNEL SIDE

SECTION A

SCALE: 1/2"=1'-0"



ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/2"=1'-0"

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

L/D 14 Downstream Mooring Cell

CEMVR-OD-P-402980

Plan, Section, Elevation

Sheet 2 of 2